

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has ensured the public's access to Government records. The 1966 act replaced the old "need to know" standard with today's "right to know" practice, placing the burden on the government to justify any need for secrecy. However, the FOIA process has recently struggled to keep up with the public's demand for documents. Since 2002, FOIA requests have increased 71 percent. This additional volume has delayed the processing of some requests.

Not long ago, President Bush signed an Executive Order to make FOIA operations more citizen-centric and results-oriented by requiring every agency to name a Chief FOIA Officer, establish a FOIA Requester Service Center, identify underperforming areas, and formulate a plan to implement improvements.

Legislation designed to streamline and improve the FOIA process was introduced last Congress by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SMITH. His bill had moved through subcommittee to the full committee, with the assistance of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS. The Executive Order adopted many of the process improvements contained in that bill.

The Majority took this bill and made additional changes, moving beyond process reforms.

First, the attorney's fee provision appears to lower the bar attorney's fees eligibility. The Supreme Court has ruled on this matter, and it appears some want to codify old, more lucrative, law. We should take a close look at this provision. There is a great deal of talk about freedom of information, and open Government, and the public right to know. But I hope when we scratch the surface of this bill, it is not about money.

Second, the Majority has listened to vocal special interest complaints about the so-called Ashcroft memo, and is attempting to codify the policies of former Attorney General Reno. I hope we can come to real bipartisan agreement on this provision as we move forward.

Improving the procedural aspects of FOIA should be our goal here today. It is something we all agree on. Although the debate on the appropriate balance between open access and protected records will continue, I trust we will find a way to balance National Security with the vital principles of open Government.

PRaising THE WORK OF TONY BEST, WHO JOINS MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL IN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE N-WORD

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an op-ed article drafted by Tony Best and printed the Carib News. The article, "A Racial Slur That Causes Black Nanny To Cringe: Why New York City Council May Ban Use of N-Word," published March 6, 2007, highlights the power of the word and the need for more thoughtful conversation about its implications and usage.

As stated in the article, the N-word is "a degrading term and should never be used to describe anyone." These words are particularly salient for Cindy Carter, a West Indian nanny who was physically and verbally disrespected by her employer, who insisted in calling her a "stupid N—" among other equally offensive expressions.

Since its inception the word has been used to pierce the minds and hearts of black people throughout the Diaspora. Despite being "reclaimed" by generations who prefer to use the term as a familiar greeting for one another—an attempt to take a word that has been historically used by whites to degrade and oppress black people, a word that has so many negative connotations, and turn it into something beautiful—the slur is abusive, ignorant and derogatory.

I applaud the work of Mr. Best and New York City Council persons, led by member Leroy Comrie of Queens to call for a moratorium on the use of the N-word in our city.

**A RACIAL SLUR THAT CAUSES BLACK NANNY TO CRINGE, WHY NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MAY BAN USE OF N-WORD**

(By Tony Best)

Every time Cindy Carter, a West Indian who lives and works as a nanny on Long Island, hears the racial slur, it brings back nightmares.

"It's an awful word," said the young woman referring to the infamous and derogatory N-word.

Her nightmares go back to 2005 when an employer, Fontaine Sheridan, allegedly pushed her down some steps at the white woman's Massapequa Park home in Nassau County, scattered her clothes on the lawn, screamed vulgar expressions, called her a "stupid nigger" and ordered her to get "off my (obscenity) property."

The housewife didn't stop there. She reportedly told the Black woman who had been looking after her children, "I have been waiting for three years to call you a nigger."

Almost a year later, Sheridan pleaded guilty to simple assault in a Nassau County court and was placed on probation, ordered to do community service and to attend anger management classes.

The N-word and the circumstances surrounding Carter's injury, allegedly at the

hands of her former employer are at the heart of a federal civil rights case in which Carter is seeking substantial damages from the Sheridan family for abusing her civil rights. Fred Brewington, one of New York State's top civil rights attorneys, is handling Carter's case.

"It's a degrading term and should never be used to describe anyone," said the West Indian.

The slur, its abusive use and why it should be banned are the subject of a resolution, which is to be debated by the New York City Council this week in Manhattan. Introduced by City Councilmember, Leroy Comrie of Queens, the measures describes the word as "an ignorant and derogatory" insult.

Because of constitutional issues, such as the First Amendment right of free speech, the resolution which calls for a moratorium on the use of the word in New York City wouldn't have the force of law but its approval would be symbolic while drawing attention to the importance of not using it.

Austin "Tom" Clarke, one of Canada's top novelist whose book, "The Polished Hoe," won the Giller Prize, Canada's equivalent of the Pulitzer and then went on to be chosen a few years ago as the best novel in the Commonwealth of nations in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, objects to the use of the term.

"It is a degrading word meant to be just that, degrading and no one, including Blacks should find it acceptable," he said sometime ago in Brooklyn. "I vigorously object to its use."

Irving Burgie, the composer of some of the world's best known music, such as "Day-O," "Island in the Sun," "Jamaica farewell" and "Mary's Boy Child," agrees with Comrie, Clarke and other advocates of its ban.

"The history of its use has always been degrading and there is nothing redeeming about it," he said from his home in Hollis Queens. "We shouldn't try to fool ourselves about that."

"Burgie was referring to the rappers who have embodied 'nigga' in their lyrics and contend it's a term of endearment when used by Blacks to describe other Blacks."

For example, Mos Def, a rapper, said in 1999 that they had taken "a word that has been historically used by whites to degrade and oppress us, a word that has so many negative connotations, and turning it into something beautiful, something we can call our own."

Linguists and others trace the origin of its use in the U.S. to 1619 when John Rolfe, a colonist in Jamestown wrote in his diary that a Dutch ship had arrived there with 20 "negars," meaning African captives.

While some scholars argued that Rolfe's use of the word wasn't meant as a slur but was simply another way of describing "Negroes" others contend that it was always designed as a pejorative expression. Nineteenth century American literature was laced with it, reflecting the attitudes of White racists and slave owners who believed that "niggers" were sub-human species.

But Black rappers and a few Black comedians began incorporating it in their using it more than 25 years ago, giving it some measure of acceptance among young Blacks who object to its use by whites.

Comrie and the resolution's supporters contend the use of the N-word by Blacks is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

misguided because the young people don't "realize how their self-image is debilitated when they use this awful word in public."

THE N-WORD AND BLACK HISTORY—WHY IT SHOULD BE BANNED

(By Tony Best)

Julius Caesar, Gnaeus Pompey and Marcus Crassus used it liberally in Rome, Britain Gaul, the Balkans and Greece.

Whether as a writer, military general or orator, Caesar used the Latin word "Niger" liberally in his historical accounts of the Gallic Wars, conquests of Britain or in reports on the Senate in Rome. And when he spoke or wrote it around 50 BC he was describing a color, as in a piece of armor, house, chariot or a horse.

But somehow "Niger" that meant Black in English became "Negars" in Jamestown in the United States in 1619 to describe with contempt a shipload of African captives who were put into a state of bondage in the U.S.

Although scholars are divided over why John Rolfe, a Jamestown colonist, recorded "Negars" in his diary to describe the Blacks, whether he wanted to be verbally abusive or was simply describing Black people, what has happened since then is that the pejorative term which eventually became "Niggers" has taken on a long-lasting life of its own. This highly offensive word or some form of it has found its way into literature—Amos Zu Bolton II's "Niggered Amen" and Carl Van Vechten's "Nigger Heaven" are two examples—in comedy routines by Blacks and in the lyrics of rap music in the late 20th and early 21st century.

At the urging of New York City Council member Leroy Comrie of Queens, the legislative body at City Hall is this week considering a resolution that calls for a moratorium on the use of the N-word in our City. While opinion is split over what action the Council should take, it's clear that the use of the word is offensive to most right-thinking Blacks and should be expunged from our vocabulary.

Yes, some Blacks, especially rappers, may wish to defend the use of "Niggas" or "Niggaz" on First Amendment grounds of free speech or as a term of endearment among Blacks to describe each other; what's not in dispute is that the term is meant to be degrading.

Andrea C. McElroy, a Black member of the Irvington Council in New Jersey, which placed a symbolic ban on the word's use there, put it well when she said that Black adults and society as a whole should give the youth a history lesson. We may be at the end of Black History Month in 2006, but learning is a continuous process.

"There is a swelling population of Black youth that use this word as if it is a term of endearment," she said. "And I think it is basically incumbent upon us to remind them of what that word meant to so many of our ancestors. This is something we probably should have done years ago."

Yes, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guarantees free speech prevents the legalized banning of the word but there can be nothing wrong with sending a message to young people and others, whether comedians, reporters, novelists or historians, that the N-word was meant to degrade Black people, not to praise them.

Austin "Tom" Clarke, one of Canada's most celebrated novelists, whose latest work, "The Polished Hoe," captured the Giller Prize, Canada's equivalent of the Pulitzer, had an important reminder for the lawmakers at City Hall.

"It doesn't matter if it is used in Black circles and societies as a term of endearment," said the West Indian. "Historically its usage

has been offensive. One may attempt to argue that when it is used by Blacks to define or address themselves, the bad meaning of the word is softened. But the fact is that its usage is either seen or heard by white people who might themselves feel that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. That was exemplified with very negative effect recently by a white comedian in America (Michael Richards, who played Kramer on Seinfeld) and who thought he was being heckled by an aspect of his audience, used the word to ridicule his audience. His demonstration and use of the word in a public place might very well be reflective of his thoughts and feelings." Interestingly Richards declined to attend the Council meeting when invited to do so. Although he later apologized, the vehemence of his original mouthing told a story about vindictiveness which his anger brought into the open.

Richards isn't alone. Time and again, whites in particular resort to the N-word whether in literature, on the stage or the screen to suggest superiority over Blacks and to hint at violence to force them into submission.

The historical connection with violence and the N-word isn't simply 400 years old. Lynchings were commonplace in the 20th century and the N-word was often the rallying cry of racists to justify their lethal actions.

While it's true that Richards didn't commit violence as he uttered the two syllables, it's not difficult to see him being driven by rage and contempt for Blacks in the audience by turning to violence.

On Long Island, that's what a white middle class mother of three children apparently did when her children's West Indian nanny didn't feed the family dog on time in 2005. She subsequently pleaded guilty to assaulting the Black woman by pushing her down some steps, injuring her leg and then throwing her clothes on the lawn, all while calling her a N...

Apparently, she had waited three years to call her that. Thankfully, that incident is now the subject of a federal civil rights civil case seeking damages.

Contrary to what some misguided Blacks and whites would wish us to believe, the N-word can't be transformed into anything beautiful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mrs. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, due to a death in the family, I missed a series of suspension votes, the vote on Water Quality Investment Act and the Living Kidney Organ Donation Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall number 121, "yea" on rollcall number 122, "No" on rollcall number 123, "Aye" on rollcall number 124, "yea" on rollcall number 125, and "yea" rollcall number 126.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ ANTONIO MOLA PORRO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of FLORIDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about

Jose Antonio Mola Porro, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Mola Porro is a member of the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights and director of the Pedro Luis Boitel Independent Library, in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda and prohibits truthful news. Due to his commitment to democracy and human rights, he has been repeatedly harassed and incarcerated.

In May 2005, while on his way to a meeting of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, Mr. Mola Porro was arrested and condemned to two agonizing years in one of the dictator's hellish totalitarian gulags for being a "pre-criminal danger to society". On February 28, 2006, Mr. Mola Porro was "conditionally" released after serving ten months of his "sentence". Never wavering in his commitment to freedom for the Cuban people, upon his release he again devoted his energies to depicting the true, tragic, reality of totalitarian Cuba.

During the early morning hours of November 17, 2006, approximately a dozen of the regime's state security thugs rearrested Mr. Mola Porro and again forced him to survive against all odds in an infernal dungeon. Following his arrest, the dictator's henchmen broke into Mr. Mola Porro's home, savagely wreaking havoc on what little belongings he had. When they finished, over one hundred books and magazines, along with many of his personal belongings, had been stolen.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Mola Porro suffers in grotesque conditions at the whim of a tyrant because of his steadfast belief that the Cuban people do not deserve to live condemned to oppression and under constant threat of unprovoked torture, abuse and arbitrary arrest. A condition that has fated, according to the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2006, thousands of Cuban citizens to serve sentences for "dangerousness" in the absence of any criminal activity.

Mr. Mola Porro is a symbol of bravery in the face of a murdering tyrant's oppression. He is unrelenting in his fight for freedom for the Cuban people. It is a crime of the highest order that people, just 90 miles from our shore, who dream of and work for freedom, are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Madam Speaker, despite the constant harassment, the example of Mr. Mola Porro is proof that the Cuban people have leaders who are unafraid to demonstrate their thirst for democracy and freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Jose Antonio Mola Porro and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

H.R. 1362, ACCOUNTABILITY IN CONTRACTING ACT VOTE 155: ON THE MOTION TO RECOMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, the amending text contained in the motion to recommit was not fully debated or its full ramifications considered prior to the vote, and I cast my vote on the limited information available. As a result, my vote was informed by my concern over the current state

of military recruiting. Nonetheless, I wish to reaffirm my opposition to the military's policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and my belief that the policy should be discontinued, as well as my support for the 1st amendment rights of American universities.

**H. RES. 149, SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 149, a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to evaluate the status of the world's women. As we take time to reflect on our achievements, we must reaffirm our commitment to addressing the inequalities and injustices that women in our country and around the world continue to face.

For example, we must do more in the fight against poverty. As much as 70 percent of the world's poor are women, many of them subsisting on less than \$1 a day. Furthermore, according to the World Bank, women earn on average 22 percent less than men. To address these disparities, we must continue expanding micro-lending practices and other opportunities for women to start small businesses, as well as working to increase women's land and property rights.

Improving access to education for girls is also critical to expanding economic opportunities for women. Despite the fact that access to primary education is increasing around the world, girls compose two-thirds of the 130 million school-aged children who are not attending school. Investing in girls' education enhances the quality of life of women and families throughout the world. Increased education for girls results in numerous benefits including lower maternal, child, and infant mortality rates, lower rates of HIV/AIDS infection, and higher earnings.

Here at home, we celebrate Speaker NANCY PELOSI, the first female Speaker of the House, women's increasing educational attainment and participation in the workforce, and the growing number of women-owned businesses. While we have made incredible strides, challenges remain. Here at home, we must continue working to close the gender pay gap, increase access to appropriate health care, and protect Title IX, which provides opportunities for American girls and women in athletics.

I am committed to working for peace and justice for all the world's women. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE MARRIED STUDENT DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2007**

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Married Student Debt Relief Act

of 2007 to end the marriage penalty contained in the portion of the tax code allowing for the deduction of student loan interest.

Current tax law discriminates against married couples trying to pay down their educational debt while starting careers and families. Individual taxpayers are allowed to deduct up to \$2,500 in student loan interest from their taxes each year. However, once a taxpayer marries, they are only allowed to deduct the same amount—\$2,500—as a married couple, regardless of whether both spouses are paying back individual student loans.

Because the existing tax law limits married couples to the \$2,500 deduction even when both spouses carry student debt and could have each taken a \$2,500 deduction while single, I am introducing the Married Student Debt Relief Act of 2007 to correct this inequity. This legislation would double the student loan interest tax deduction to \$5,000 for married couples who file a joint tax return when both spouses hold student debt, ensuring tax law treats students fairly, whether they are single or married.

The average U.S. student graduates with \$19,000 in educational debt. The government should not make it more difficult for young married couples to payoff their debts as quickly as possible to increase their quality of life and begin making their dreams come true. I am joined by more than 25 bipartisan Members of Congress in introducing this legislation today. It is important to help married couples pay down their student loans as quickly as possible to support their families and futures.

This problem in the tax code was first brought to my attention by my constituent, Michael Currans of Omaha. He wrote to me about the inequity, and I drafted legislation shortly thereafter to correct it. After learning of the effort, he wrote:

First off, I'm very pleased that my simple email to Congressman Terry has resulted in such an enthusiastic response. This is the first time I've ever written to my representatives in Congress, and it has definitely helped me see the value of getting involved. I really wish that I had written about this years ago.

Ever since we were married in 2000 and began filing our joint tax return, my wife and I have struggled to understand the rationale for not allowing married couples to each take advantage of the student loan interest deduction to the same extent as two unmarried individuals. Between us, we had over \$70,000 of student loan debt, and while we diligently make all our payments on time, it is frustrating that the principal balances are reduced so slowly. We often discuss how we'd like to make additional payments to try to pay the loans down faster, but now that we've got kids in the picture, daycare expenses, and a house to maintain, extra cash to put toward the student loans seems hard to come by. We find some solace in knowing that we can at least deduct a portion of the interest we pay.

We are not complaining. The federal student loan programs have been good to us. We've both earned valuable undergraduate degrees, my wife at the University of Northern Iowa, and myself at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Further, student loans allowed us both to attend the excellent law school at the University of Iowa where we met. Without student loans, we would not be where we are today, so even without the benefit of the full student loan interest deduction, our student loans are a positive investment.

Some might ask why a two-income family with both spouses being attorneys should

have any grounds to seek additional relief from income taxes. However, my wife is a public defender representing juvenile delinquents in Douglas County, Nebraska. She is most definitely using her law degree for the public good, earning much less than she might if she chose to pursue private practice. I'm sure for many married lawyer couples, the student loan interest deduction is a nonissue due to the phase-out at higher incomes, but for us, it is still an important deduction. I'm certain the deduction is important to the great many married couples of lesser means paying on student loans for both spouses, especially in cases where one spouse chooses to stay at home with children.

We've joked on occasion about how we'd have been better off from a tax perspective if we'd just remained unmarried, lived together, and filed separate tax returns until our student loans were paid off. I doubt most couples would actually choose to live that way just for the additional student loan interest deduction. Nonetheless, why should a married couple be treated differently than two individual taxpayers? There is no good reason for this inequity, so I really hope this legislation goes through.

If I can be of help, please let me know. Thanks to Congressman Terry and his staff for taking up this issue.—Mike Currans.

I am grateful to Mike for bringing this inequity to my attention so we can work in this Congress to correct it. I urge more of my constituents to bring their concerns to my attention, and I encourage every American to communicate their views to their Congressional Representative. Your voice does make a difference.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope all of my colleagues will join my efforts by cosponsoring this legislation and working to bring it to a vote in the House of Representatives.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF RONNIE AND JANIS BOND**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Ronnie and Janis Bond for their retirement from Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Florida.

Ronnie and Janis Bond have dedicated their professional careers to Booker T. Washington High School. Ronnie has been teaching at Washington for 38 years, and Janis retired in 2002 after 32 years of teaching. They worked everyday to challenge their students both in and out of the classroom. Ronnie served as an assistant coach for the football program for twenty-seven years, and Janis coached cross-country for five years. Together they have coached track and field for sixteen years and girl's basketball for the past thirty-two years.

When the State of Florida officially recognized girl's basketball as a high school sport in 1975, Ronnie and Janis truly made a home for themselves and began to develop what has become the best girl's basketball program in the state. They have devoted themselves to the players, and in return, the talented student athletes have made many tremendous achievements over the years. Under the leadership of Ronnie and Janis, the Washington

girl's basketball teams have won twenty-four district championships, four state championships, and were runner-up finishers for the state championship four additional times.

Reaching 700 career wins was a milestone in itself, so it was with even more excitement that Ronnie and Janis reached their 722nd career win on January 20, 2007. This victory carried a unique significance as the Bond's entered the Florida record books as having the most wins of any high school girl's basketball coaches in the State of Florida.

Their winning basketball program has been founded on solid principles of love, family, honor, and commitment. They have taught many young people about teamwork, the power of a shared vision, and one way to achieve success is to expect excellence.

It will be difficult to find two people more committed to helping students than Ronnie and Janis Bond. They have set a high standard in their dedication to their work and devotion to their students. A benchmark has been established for all other high school coaches. Teachers and coaches serve as role models for students, and the Bond's have without a doubt been a great role model for those who have played for them. They are sure to remain in the Florida record books for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Ronnie and Janis Bond for their efforts in reaching out and touching the lives of thousands of our nation's young people.

#### WELCOMING GHANA'S AMBASSADOR DR. KWAME BAWUAH-EDUSEI TO CONNECTICUT

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ghana's Ambassador to the United States, to the great State of Connecticut. Ambassador Bawuah-Edusei, who is visiting the State for the first time this weekend, will address Ghanaians from all across New England in honor and celebration of Ghana's independence.

Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, is a nation rich in history, culture and natural resources. Under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana became the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from European rule on March 6, 1957. This year marks 50 years of social freedom, and economic and political achievement. Ghana has contributed greatly to world affairs and has been the birth place of national and international leaders, among them former United Nations Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize winner Kofi Annan.

Connecticut's Ghanaian population continues to grow and prosper. I am proud to have Mr. Nana Okoda-Darko, king of the Akim-Kusi traditional council in Ghana living in my district and hometown of East Hartford. I am also pleased to have learned a great deal about Ghana and the Ghanaian culture from a member of my staff Adwoa Ansah whose father is from Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

And so today, on behalf of Mr. Okoda-Darko, Adwoa Ansah, and the many Gha-

naians in my district and the great State of Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ghana in its 50th Anniversary and welcoming Ambassador Bawuah-Edusei to the State of Connecticut.

#### "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH"

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the House an article published in the New York Times regarding former Vice President Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." As this documentary continues to shape the discussion on the controversial issue of global warming, I would like to highlight the following article, which identifies the inconsistencies of the film.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 13, 2007]

FROM A RAPT AUDIENCE, A CALL TO COOL THE HYPE

(By William J. Broad)

Hollywood has a thing for Al Gore and his three-alarm film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth," which won an Academy Award for best documentary. So do many environmentalists, who praise him as a visionary, and many scientists, who laud him for raising public awareness of climate change.

But part of his scientific audience is uneasy. In talks, articles and blog entries that have appeared since his film and accompanying book came out last year, these scientists argue that some of Mr. Gore's central points are exaggerated and erroneous. They are alarmed, some say, at what they call his alarmism.

"I don't want to pick on Al Gore," Don J. Easterbrook, an emeritus professor of geology at Western Washington University, told hundreds of experts at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. "But there are a lot of inaccuracies in the statements we are seeing, and we have to temper that with real data."

Mr. Gore, in an e-mail exchange about the critics, said his work made "the most important and salient points" about climate change, if not "some nuances and distinctions" scientists might want. "The degree of scientific consensus on global warming has never been stronger," he said, adding, "I am trying to communicate the essence of it in the lay language that I understand."

Although Mr. Gore is not a scientist, he does rely heavily on the authority of science in "An Inconvenient Truth," which is why scientists are sensitive to its details and claims.

Criticisms of Mr. Gore have come not only from conservative groups and prominent skeptics of catastrophic warming, but also from rank-and-file scientists like Dr. Easterbrook, who told his peers that he had no political ax to grind. A few see natural variation as more central to global warming than heat-trapping gases. Many appear to occupy a middle ground in the climate debate, seeing human activity as a serious threat but challenging what they call the extremism of both skeptics and zealots.

Kevin Vranes, a climatologist at the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at the University of Colorado, said he sensed a growing backlash against exaggeration.

While praising Mr. Gore for "getting the message out," Dr. Vranes questioned whether his presentations were "overselling our certainty about knowing the future."

Typically, the concern is not over the existence of climate change, or the idea that the human production of heat-trapping gases is partly or largely to blame for the globe's recent warming. The question is whether Mr. Gore has gone beyond the scientific evidence.

"He's a very polarizing figure in the science community," said Roger A. Pielke Jr., an environmental scientist who is a colleague of Dr. Vranes at the University of Colorado center. "Very quickly, these discussions turn from the issue to the person, and become a referendum on Mr. Gore."

"An Inconvenient Truth," directed by Davis Guggenheim, was released last May and took in more than \$46 million, making it one of the top-grossing documentaries ever. The companion book by Mr. Gore quickly became a best seller, reaching No. 1 on the New York Times list.

Mr. Gore depicted a future in which temperatures soar, ice sheets melt, seas rise, hurricanes batter the coasts and people die en masse. "Unless we act boldly," he wrote, "our world will undergo a string of terrible catastrophes."

He clearly has supporters among leading scientists, who commend his popularizations and call his science basically sound. In December, he spoke in San Francisco to the American Geophysical Union and got a reception fit for a rock star from thousands of attendees.

"He has credibility in this community," said Tim Killeen, the group's president and director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a top group studying climate change. "There's no question he's read a lot and is able to respond in a very effective way."

Some backers concede minor inaccuracies but see them as reasonable for a politician. James E. Hansen, an environmental scientist, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a top adviser to Mr. Gore, said, "Al does an exceptionally good job of seeing the forest for the trees," adding that Mr. Gore often did so "better than scientists."

Still, Dr. Hansen said, the former vice president's work may hold "imperfections" and "technical flaws." He pointed to hurricanes, an icon for Mr. Gore, who highlights the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and cites research suggesting that global warming will cause both storm frequency and deadliness to rise. Yet this past Atlantic season produced fewer hurricanes than forecasters predicted (five versus nine), and none that hit the United States.

"We need to be more careful in describing the hurricane story than he is," Dr. Hansen said of Mr. Gore. "On the other hand," Dr. Hansen said, "he has the bottom line right: most storms, at least those driven by the latent heat of vaporization, will tend to be stronger, or have the potential to be stronger, in a warmer climate."

In his e-mail message, Mr. Gore defended his work as fundamentally accurate. "Of course," he said, "there will always be questions around the edges of the science, and we have to rely upon the scientific community to continue to ask and to challenge and to answer those questions."

He said "not every single adviser" agreed with him on every point, "but we do agree on the fundamentals"—that warming is real and caused by humans.

Mr. Gore added that he perceived no general backlash among scientists against his work. "I have received a great deal of positive feedback," he said. "I have also received comments about items that should be changed, and I have updated the book and slideshow to reflect these comments." He gave no specifics on which points he had revised.



He said that after 30 years of trying to communicate the dangers of global warming, "I think that I'm finally getting a little better at it."

While reviewers tended to praise the book and movie, vocal skeptics of global warming protested almost immediately. Richard S. Lindzen, a climatologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, who has long expressed skepticism about dire climate predictions, accused Mr. Gore in *The Wall Street Journal* of "shrill alarmism."

Some of Mr. Gore's centrist detractors point to a report last month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body that studies global warming. The panel went further than ever before in saying that humans were the main cause of the globe's warming since 1950, part of Mr. Gore's message that few scientists dispute. But it also portrayed climate change as a slow-motion process.

It estimated that the world's seas in this century would rise a maximum of 23 inches—down from earlier estimates. Mr. Gore, citing no particular time frame, envisions rises of up to 20 feet and depicts parts of New York, Florida and other heavily populated areas as sinking beneath the waves, implying, at least visually, that inundation is imminent.

Bjorn Lomborg, a statistician and political scientist in Denmark long skeptical of catastrophic global warming, said in a syndicated article that the panel, unlike Mr. Gore, had refrained from scaremongering. "Climate change is a real and serious problem" that calls for careful analysis and sound policy, Dr. Lomborg said. "The cacophony of screaming," he added, "does not help."

So too, a report last June by the National Academies seemed to contradict Mr. Gore's portrayal of recent temperatures as the highest in the past millennium. Instead, the report said, current highs appeared unrivaled since only 1600, the tail end of a temperature rise known as the medieval warm period.

Roy Spencer, a climatologist at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, said on a blog that Mr. Gore's film did "indeed do a pretty good job of presenting the most dire scenarios." But the June report, he added, shows "that all we really know is that we are warmer now than we were during the last 400 years."

Other critics have zeroed in on Mr. Gore's claim that the energy industry ran a "disinformation campaign" that produced false discord on global warming. The truth, he said, was that virtually all unbiased scientists agreed that humans were the main culprits.

But Benny J. Peiser, a social anthropologist in Britain who runs the Cambridge-Conference Network, or CCNet, an Internet newsletter on climate change and natural disasters, challenged the claim of scientific consensus with examples of pointed disagreement.

"Hardly a week goes by," Dr. Peiser said, "without a new research paper that questions part or even some basics of climate change theory," including some reports that offer alternatives to human activity for global warming.

Geologists have documented age upon age of climate swings, and some charge Mr. Gore with ignoring such rhythms.

"Nowhere does Mr. Gore tell his audience that all of the phenomena that he describes fall within the natural range of environmental change on our planet," Robert M. Carter, a marine geologist at James Cook University in Australia, said in a September blog. "Nor does he present any evidence that climate during the 20th century departed dis-

cernibly from its historical pattern of constant change."

In October, Dr. Easterbrook made similar points at the geological society meeting in Philadelphia. He hotly disputed Mr. Gore's claim that "our civilization has never experienced any environmental shift remotely similar to this" threatened change.

Nonsense, Dr. Easterbrook told the crowded session. He flashed a slide that showed temperature trends for the past 15,000 years. It highlighted 10 large swings, including the medieval warm period. These shifts, he said, were up to "20 times greater than the warming in the past century."

Getting personal, he mocked Mr. Gore's assertion that scientists agreed on global warming except those industry had corrupted. "I've never been paid a nickel by an oil company," Dr. Easterbrook told the group. "And I'm not a Republican."

Biologists, too, have gotten into the act. In January, Paul Reiter, an active skeptic of global warming's effects and director of the insects and infectious diseases unit of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, faulted Mr. Gore for his portrayal of global warming as spreading malaria.

"For 12 years, my colleagues and I have protested against the unsubstantiated claims," Dr. Reiter wrote in *The International Herald Tribune*. "We have done the studies and challenged the alarmists, but they continue to ignore the facts."

Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton who advised Mr. Gore on the book and movie, said that reasonable scientists disagreed on the malaria issue and other points that the critics had raised. In general, he said, Mr. Gore had distinguished himself for integrity.

"On balance, he did quite well—a credible and entertaining job on a difficult subject," Dr. Oppenheimer said. "For that, he deserves a lot of credit. If you rake him over the coals, you're going to find people who disagree. But in terms of the big picture, he got it right."

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.A.F. COL. FRANCIS R. "FRANK" CAPPELLETTI

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of U.S.A.F. Col. Francis R. "Frank" Cappelletti, a giant amongst men.

Col. Cappelletti was born in Koppel, Pennsylvania in 1918. He graduated from Laval University in Quebec City, Quebec before entering the Army Air Force in 1940. He completed navigation training with Pan American Airlines in Coral Gables, Florida in 1941. Thereafter, he was assigned to a B-17 outfit, the 19th Bomb Group. During World War II, Col. Cappelletti courageously flew 91 combat missions against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Later he served under General Curtis LeMay at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters.

Frank Cappelletti's flying prowess extended beyond combat missions. Before it was routine, the Colonel pioneered the flight pattern from Alaska to the North Pole. His continued service in the Air Force had him participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as the Vietnam War.

He retired as an Air Force Colonel after 30 years of service. During his extraordinary career he amassed several awards and honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with cluster, Silver Star with clusters, and Air Medal.

A humble man who never rested on his laurels, Col. Cappelletti continued serving his country and his community. After his retirement, Frank worked for the Defense Department civil service section for 11 years. He also volunteered for the Smithsonian Institution, translating documents from Russian into English. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club, the Boys and Girls Club, the Military Officers Association of America, and of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

A tall, striking figure with movie star good looks, Colonel Cappelletti was an exemplary resident of my district and I am so proud to have served him, even for a short time. His devoted wife, Rose Cappelletti, took care of him to the very end as Alzheimer's disease gradually consumed him. In the final days of his extraordinary life, Mrs. Cappelletti provided him with a last glimpse of what she described as the "love of his life," a look at his beloved B-17 bomber as it toured a local airport. While the B-17 may be a close second, I know the real love of Colonel Cappelletti's life was Rose.

Madam Speaker, may the Colonel's life be a model to which we should all strive. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be eternal.

#### CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP- TIVE BY HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 107—a bill calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers being held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah.

On July 12, 2006, Sergeant Udi Goldwasser and fellow soldier Eldad Regev were on patrol inside the Israeli border when their armored humvee was bombarded by Hezbollah rockets. Udi and Eldad were captured during this attack and have been held by Hezbollah militants for more than 8 months.

I tell this story because just over one month ago, I had the pleasure of welcoming Udi Goldwasser's wife, Karnit, to the United States Capitol. She told me about how hard it has been to live without "the love of her life" and how her dreams of raising a peaceful and loving family with Udi are now in jeopardy due to the cowardly acts of a terrorist organization that has said it will not rest until her country is destroyed.

Terrorist acts are not military actions between warring nations. They are despicable crimes that rob wives of husbands, husbands of wives and children of their parents. And as the leader of the free and democratic world, it is America's solemn duty to condemn such attacks whenever they occur and to support the justifiable actions of our ally Israel when it comes under heinous, premeditated attacks.

Today, I join Karnit Goldwasser in seeking to further the pursuit of liberty, democracy and peace throughout the world. And it is my sincere hope that Udi, Eldad and every other Israeli captive of Hamas and Hezbollah will be united with their families as soon as is humanly possible.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

### HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Simunovich, who at the end of his 3-year term is being recognized for his service as chairman of the board of governors at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC). Mr. Simunovich has been the driving force behind the implementation of vital policy that has advanced the successful actions of HUMC, thus contributing to its prestigious reputation.

In addition, Mr. Simunovich currently serves as a member of the board of directors for United Water Resources, and as vice chairman for the board of Directors of United Water New Jersey—New York. In this position, Mr. Simunovich is responsible for setting public policy and strategic planning, focusing on external affairs and government relations. Since joining the company in 1992, Mr. Simunovich has been vice president, and senior vice president, as well as president and chief of staff of United Water Management and Services.

Active in governmental and civic associations, Mr. Simunovich was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean in 1986 as a member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA). He was reappointed as vice chairman of the EDA by Governors James Florio and Christine Whitman for six consecutive terms, having, to date, the longest tenure in the organization's history. Mr. Simunovich also completed a 1-year assignment as a loaned executive to the Governor's Management Review Commission.

Joseph Simunovich's life in public service started even earlier. As a resident of West New York, he was elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, where he served for 12 years. Mr. Simunovich was also appointed chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority by Governor James E. McGreevey in 2002, where he led the integration of the Garden State Parkway into the Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Simunovich has been a member of numerous boards of directors including New Jersey City University, the New Brunswick Development Corporation, the National Association of Water Companies, and the National Council for Public Private Partnerships.

Please join me in honoring Joseph Simunovich for his guidance and service, and in congratulating him and his family.

## PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this legislation establishes a statutory process under which incumbent and former Presidents could, within specified time limits, review records prior to their release, and determine whether to personally assert constitutional privilege claims against release of the records.

This legislation is identical to legislation introduced in a prior Congress and approved by the Committee under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON.

During consideration of the bill before us, the Committee approved my amendment to close a loophole in the Presidential Records Act. Current law allows those individuals previously convicted of a crime relating to mishandling Archives records to continue to have special access to Presidential records. My amendment states that the Archivist shall not make available any original Presidential records to any individual claiming access as a designated representative under statute, if that individual has been convicted of a crime relating to the review, retention, removal, or destruction of Archives records.

As I noted in Committee, we should take the simple step of blocking access to original Presidential records if you've been convicted of crime related to Archives records.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI, THE POLISH HERO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birth anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski, the Polish Hero of the Revolutionary War.

Often referred to as the father of American cavalry, Kazimierz Michal Wlclaw Wiktor Pulaski herbu Slepown, more commonly referred to as General Casimir Pulaski, was born in 1746 in Winiary. Born into one of the most notable families in the region, he was sent away at a young age to be educated.

Working alongside his father Jozef in 1768, Pulaski co-founded the Bar Confederation, an insurrectionists group that aimed to limit the spread of Russian hegemony, a threat to Policy liberty and Catholicism, throughout the commonwealth. With the motto of "For Faith and Freedom," Pulaski participated in leading a confederation which fought for these goals. Pulaski gained renown during the battle of 1771 and went on to assert his leadership skills, military adroitness and valor in several battles before being exiled for a failed attempt to abduct the king. Although his efforts failed, Pulaski's leadership and courage inspired many.

In 1777 Pulaski traveled to the United States and met with General George Wash-

ington. Pulaski transformed soldiers into highly mobile forces, instituting the idea of a cavalry; soldiers who fought mounted on horseback. He would go on to lead several successful battles before sustaining a fatal gunshot wound in 1779.

Americans and Polish citizens alike have recognized Pulaski's heroism and commitment to freedom for centuries. He is honored, in both countries, in statue and in ceremony. In death, as in life, he remains a symbol of courage, commitment and friendship between Poland and the United States.

## TRIBUTE TO JOHN GAINES

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the community of El Segundo, located in my congressional district, sustained a genuine loss this week. John Gaines, a former member of the El Segundo City Council, highly influential community leader, and my dear friend, succumbed on Monday night following an inspirational battle against a rare form of cancer.

John was a terrific guy. Even as he struggled with his illness, John never lost heart, and continued to be a rock for his family and friends. When I last saw him only a few months ago, he told me his doctors had advised that he move up the date of his daughter's December wedding. In typical John Gaines fashion, he not only ignored their advice, he walked his daughter down the aisle.

He even joked with me that, having lost 100 pounds, he had become an adult sex symbol in his form-fitting blue jeans. This kind of levity in a time of extreme pain and uncertainty is a powerful testament to who John Gaines was: strong, compassionate, and charismatic.

Though it ended too soon, John led a full and accomplished life. A long-serving Naval Officer and Aviator, he attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander by the time he left military service in 1979.

Following his naval service, John returned to Southern California to start a distinguished career in the South Bay's booming aerospace industry. He quickly became an industry leader and worked at senior levels for some of the region's leading firms.

Ironically, it took the prodding of his son to get John into politics. But once elected, he was a natural and I believe John will be remembered most for his unwavering dedication to public service.

As a member of the El Segundo City Council, he made emergency preparedness, homeland security and community development priorities. During his tenure, John was instrumental in securing funds to better prepare El Segundo for any possible man-made or natural disasters. He also oversaw projects that helped to revitalize the city's downtown.

Over the years, John had a profound influence on so many people and literally helped change the face of his community. He and Assemblyman Mike Gordon, our mutual friend who died at age 47 of a brain tumor in 2005, are now local legend. John's wife, Susan, told me she is certain they are reunited.

My heart goes out to his wife Susan and their three children, Rebecca, Robert and Benjamin. Susan says the two boys are so much like their father. How fortunate!

TRIBUTE TO MADISON HIGH  
SCHOOL BEL CANTO CHOIR,  
REXBURG, IDAHO

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, the Madison High School Bel Canto Choir of Rexburg, Idaho, which has been chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 19, 2007.

The Bel Canto choir was selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert will feature 200 students from three states, and it is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the nation. I am delighted that these young constituents have been given this opportunity.

Led by David Hinck, the Madison High School Bel Canto Choir had its beginnings in the 1960s. The choir consistently receives high ratings at regional choral festivals and has been a featured ensemble at the Idaho Music Educators Conference, Northwest Music Educators Conference, and the Idaho ACDA Retreat. In 2005, the choir received top honors at the FAME festival in Branson, Missouri. The ensemble regularly joins with the MHS Orchestra and has performed several works with the orchestra and other choirs from the Eastern Idaho Area.

I am honored to have one of the four schools in the nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in my Idaho district. They should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of Idaho provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success, and wish them the best of luck on March 19 when they perform at Carnegie Hall.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KARL S. WRIGHT

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise with great gladness over the inauguration of Dr. Karl S. Wright as the 11th President of Florida Memorial University. On March 15, 2007 he will take over the reins of this university amidst ceremonies that evoke the historical significance of this occasion. Having earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Mississippi State University and his bachelor's

and master's degrees from the University of Maryland at College Park, Dr. Wright will preside over South Florida's only historically Black institution of higher learning which has played a major role in responding to the needs of a burgeoning urban center like Miami-Dade County.

He is not new to the challenge since he has served as executive vice-president and provost when he oversaw the dramatic increase in the size of its student enrollment. He has actively participated in navigating the rough waters of this university's change from a college status to that of a university. Dr. Wright is no stranger to this institution's upgrading since he has managed not only the quality of the faculty and staff, but also the number of courses and degree programs that now validate its status as a major university.

Being an institution of higher learning alongside the Baptist tradition, Dr. Wright's role is enhanced by his commitment to religious education amidst the challenge of academic achievement and higher learning, emphasizing financial management and entrepreneurship, aerospace engineering and personal development. He has also devised a very innovative program on physical fitness and dropout prevention strategies during a time when this urban university reaches out to inner city students in need of mentoring and tutorial assistance. These unique programs are making Florida Memorial University into one of those pioneering institutions whereby its outreach efforts to the youth of Miami-Dade County and beyond are generating dividends toward enhancing its prestige and reputation.

In the midst of these innovative educational strategies, Dr. Wright will continue to strengthen this university's graduate degree accreditation process, while expanding qualitatively its presence in the South Florida community and throughout nearby countries within the Caribbean basin. Having served for 7 years as Dean of the School of Business at South Carolina State University, he is well equipped with his educational background and hands-on experience to bring the necessary upgrade toward ensuring that Florida Memorial University become indeed a world-class university.

Defined by his ability to reach out beyond the confines of a university setting, Dr. Wright will no doubt bank on his role on the Miami-Dade County Investment Advisory Committee, as well as on the prestigious 100 Black Men of Ft. Lauderdale to give him the necessary tools to consolidate community and business support for the university. Most importantly, Dr. Wright has been recognized by the Kellogg Foundation as a leadership Fellow, and has earned kudos from the American Association of State Colleges and University, which recently selected him to participate in the Millennium Presidential Leadership Fellows Initiative.

As he is sworn into office, I am confident that Dr. Karl S. Wright will demonstrate to all those called upon by public service that excellence is never beyond the reach of those willing to make the sacrifice and dare the impossible on behalf of our leaders of tomorrow. I rest assured that he is truly imbued with the personal integrity and intellectual acumen to

bring Florida Memorial University into one of the leading universities in our State.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WESTERN DIOCESE  
OF THE ARMENIAN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America upon the celebration of its 80th Anniversary.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church was established on July 2, 1898 under the direction of Khirmian Hayrig, placing all Armenian Churches in the United States and Canada under the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Headquarters in Worcester, Massachusetts.

On November 28, 1927, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church was officially established by an Encyclical issued from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin by His Holiness Kevork V. Supreme Patriarch and Catholics of All Armenians. The creation of the Western Diocese was a response to a continued and vigorous growth of the Armenian community in California and the vast distance separating the Armenian Churches in the West from the Headquarters in the East.

From its creation, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church progressed and expanded to serve the Armenian population throughout California. In 1928, the newly established Western Diocese consisted of five parishes. By 1953, the number of parishes had expanded to eight, and an additional three were added by 1957—the year that the Diocesan Headquarters relocated to Hollywood.

The Diocesan Headquarters remained in Hollywood until the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Later that year, the Diocesan Assembly decided to purchase a new Headquarters. On May 16, 1997 the Western Diocese moved to its new Headquarters in Burbank. Today, the Western Diocese is the proud owner of a multi-purpose complex where it is currently headquartered and will be the future site for the Mother Cathedral.

In addition to providing places of worship, the Western Diocese has made a strong commitment to community service. In 1963, the Diocese began to provide youth throughout the community with the opportunity to participate in a Summer Camp. In 1967 the Diocese purchased the Alta Sierra Camp providing year-round camping facilities for children, families, and organizations. The Western Diocese also publishes the bi-monthly periodical, "The Mother Church," reaching 28,000 people worldwide.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America for its eighty years of service to the Armenian community and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Western Diocese for its remarkable achievements.

MILITARY BASE REALIGNMENT  
AND CLOSURE PROJECTS FOR 2007

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth tomorrow.

But for now I wish to spotlight another element of this legislation, a fulfillment of a promise to America's military installations. The supplemental bill will fully fund Base Realignment and Closure projects through 2007, and in so doing, it will close the books on one of the 109th Congress's most shameful failures.

As you may know, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission was charged with restructuring the American military to better prosecute the war on terror. In the course of their work, the Commission discovered that certain American bases have outstanding strengths that are uniquely valuable in modern-day wars. The Commission asked these installations to scale up their operations, and Congress, in turn, promised to fully fund these expansions.

Among the targeted bases were three in my district: Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, and Forbes Field. The base commanders promptly enacted plans to build new facilities and house new personnel—all in the name of protecting America, trusting Congress to fulfill its promise.

But a promise made is not always a promise kept, and the 109th Congress was well known for breaking its word. In their 2 years in office, they cast aside promises to veterans, to schools, to farmers and ranchers, to children and seniors—and, sadly, to America's military bases as well.

For the 2007 fiscal year, when BRAC projects needed \$5.6 billion to move forward as planned, the last Congress appropriated only \$1.5 billion. Worse, they attached strings to what little funding they provided, which essentially blocked all new construction on BRAC projects for 6 months. As of October 1, 2006, all new construction came to an immediate halt. Worse yet, the bases most impacted by underfunding were those that stood to gain the most from BRAC—that is, the very bases at the frontline of the war on terror.

I cannot find words to express the scale of this catastrophe. The last Congress left our Nation less secure and our troops less supported. They closed their wallets and their hearts to the soldiers who so courageously fight the war on terror.

When Democrats took over Congress in January, we acted immediately to right this grave wrong. We passed a further \$1 billion in BRAC funding by the end of January, and we promised to move promptly to fully fund BRAC through supplemental funding. More importantly, these funds allowed new construction to start.

And unlike the last Congress, when this Congress makes a promise to our soldiers, we deliver.

The bill now under consideration will fully fund BRAC for the current fiscal year. It will

help the United States military better fight the war on terror, and it will strengthen and secure our great nation. I urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to keep their word to our troops and support this critical legislation.

**HONORING LISA HUSSUNG**

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Lisa Hussung, an exemplary citizen from my Congressional District who was recently named Elementary Music Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

A music teacher at Rich Pond Elementary School in Warren County, Kentucky, Mrs. Hussung demonstrates a special ability to relay her passion for music on to her students. She consistently engages students with her interactive teaching style, instilling an appreciation for music that often continues many years after they have left the classroom.

Mrs. Hussung's influence extends outside of the classroom, particularly through her work with other music professionals to build a stronger music curriculum in Warren County. She often leads student groups in choral, instrumental and dance performances, providing opportunities for young artists to publicly showcase their talents.

The combination of Lisa Hussung's two greatest passions, music and teaching, has made her career as a music teacher the perfect job. In her words, "There is nothing better than singing and dancing all day while still teaching and seeing my students learn."

It is my great privilege to recognize Lisa Hussung today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for her excellent work in public education. Her unique dedication to the development of young people and the communities they will someday serve make her an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

**HONORING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK  
DAVID C. MABIE**

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Mr. David Mabie, of Nokesville, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after over four decades of public service.

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Dave and his wife Copper moved to Waynesboro, Virginia, in 1967 where Dave joined the Waynesboro Police Department. Then in 1970 he became a police officer in Manassas, Virginia, and served as one of the original members of this newly formed Prince William County department. Dave served as a detective and eventually was assigned to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office where he specialized in trial preparation for capital murder cases.

In 1992 Dave was elected to serve as clerk of the Circuit Court in Prince William County, from where he will be retiring on April 1, 2007. Through the years Dave has been an active member of several organizations including the United Way, Regional Jail Board, and Chamber of Commerce. Dave has dedicated his professional life to public service and will be sorely missed by Prince William County and the northern Virginia community as a whole.

I cannot say enough about Dave and how honored I am to have worked with him throughout his career. I would be remiss today in didn't also recognize Dave's dedication to his wife Copper, and how proud he is of their children, Andrew, Meredith, and Christopher, and their many grandchildren. I suspect that as Dave prepares for retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with his family. We wish him the best and thank him for his dedicated service to the people.

**CALLING FOR RELEASE OF  
ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP-  
TIVE BY HAMAS AND  
HEZBOLLAH**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my good friend Congressman GARY ACKERMAN in calling for the unconditional release of the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers held hostage for more than six months by Hezbollah and Hamas. I am proud to co-sponsor it, and to have our Committee bring it up for consideration by the House.

A few weeks ago we were honored by the presence in the Capitol of Karnit Goldwasser, whose husband Ehud remains in Hezbollah's hands. She is a model of strength, courage, and loving commitment.

I put my arm around this young woman—having recently celebrated my 57th anniversary with my own lovely wife—and I assured her that we in the Congress will do our best to see to it that she and her beloved husband Ehud also will have the opportunity to celebrate many anniversaries together in the years ahead.

As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah and Hamas are the guilty parties in the outbreak of violence in the Middle East last summer. They committed acts of war by crossing into Israeli territory, acts of terror by taking three young Israeli soldiers captive, and vicious unprovoked attacks against Israel's civilian population.

While the immediate fighting between Israel and these terrorist organizations has subsided, the initial causes for the violence, lamentably, have not yet been addressed. Primary among these is the fact that the three young men, Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev, and Ehud Goldwasser, remain in captivity.

Mr. Speaker, the fighting last summer ended when the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1701, which imposed a ceasefire on the Hezbollah attacks against Israel. That resolution unequivocally called for—and I quote—"the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers."

Therefore, their ongoing captivity is not only immoral. It is also illegal, and it represents



characteristically contemptuous disregard by the terrorists for the will of the international community.

Contrary to the most basic standards of humanitarian conduct, Hamas and Hezbollah have not even allowed access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, this appalling conduct underscores the cruel and sinister nature of the enemies that The United States and Israel face in this troubled region.

The resolution we are considering today expresses this Congress's vision for "a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel."

I share this vision, but we all know that this vision cannot be achieved—nor can Israeli confidence be won—by sweeping under the rug the transgressions of terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, these terrorists attacked Israel from land that the Israeli army unilaterally evacuated—evacuated in the expectation of peace. But the borders traversed by Hamas and Hezbollah have been anything but peaceful. As one insightful observer aptly described it, "Israel pursues land-for-peace, while Hamas and Hezbollah pursue land-for-war."

Our own American soldiers are being victimized by terrorists every day in Iraq—terrorism sponsored by the same two nations that sponsored the kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers, Iran and Syria. So we cannot turn a blind eye when citizens of a fellow democracy fall prey to the machinations of savage terrorists.

The Israeli soldiers must be released without delay and without preconditions. That is the Security Council's demand, and it is our demand as well. We will remain committed to the soldiers' freedom—for the sake of the fight against terrorism and for the sake of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and I urge all my colleagues to do likewise.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, I was unable to attend votes due to illness.

Were I present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 1254—Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007—"yea"; H.R. 1255—Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; H.R. 1309—The Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007—"yea"; Stupak amendment to H.R. 985—"yea"; Sali amendment to H.R. 985—"no"; On Motion to Recommit H.R. 985 with Instructions—"yea"; H.R. 985—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007—"yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Ms. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on Monday, March 12,

2007 because my flight from my district was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

(1) H.R. 85—Energy Technology Transfer Act—"yea".

(2) H. Res. 136—Commending the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on the occasion of their 95th anniversary, for providing quality age-appropriate experiences that prepare girls to become the leaders of tomorrow and for raising issues important to girls—"yea".

(3) H. Res. 89—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as Dutch-American Friendship Day to celebrate the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands—"yea".

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH FIRST ACT

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, we are here because we need to provide affordable healthcare options for children. There are 9 million children uninsured in the United States today. There is no excuse for a country that is spending \$1.9 trillion on health care to have even one uninsured child, especially when it costs a mere \$3.50 a day to cover a child.

Who are these children? Nearly two-thirds are low income children and more than half are children in working families. Moreover, over half are minorities. But most importantly, these are children that are significantly less likely to make it to a doctor when they have an acute earache or even recurrent asthma and even die.

I am introducing the Children's Health First Act with Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, FRANK PALLONE, HENRY WAXMAN, and others, to provide every child in this country access to affordable health insurance. Senator CLINTON is introducing the companion bill in the Senate as well.

This bill builds on successful public programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program by offering States financial support to expand coverage to working families making approximately \$70,000 a year.

This bill allows employers and families to access good health insurance by buying into an affordable insurance pool. And the bill even goes further by allowing States to help employers retain coverage they already have through a 50-percent subsidy of the cost the States are spending on coverage for a child.

This bill provides States with new tools to help them find and enroll qualified children and ensure benefits and services are available once the children are enrolled. The tools include things such as allowing States to enroll children in schools and hospitals in public programs, allowing States to simplify their applications and renewal forms, and allowing children to enroll in coverage for a full year, as in most private plans.

The bill also makes numerous other improvements to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This bill allows States to expand coverage to legal immigrants, young adults up to age 25, and offers

incentives for States to cover pregnant women.

Health care is every person's problem. It costs our country to have parents staying home to care for sick children, for the insured to pay higher premiums, for hospitals to provide uncompensated care, and for us to have a unhealthy younger generation.

We cannot continue to ignore a problem as large as 46 million uninsured people and certainly not the 9 million vulnerable uninsured children. To cover all children, it will cost us a fraction of what it cost to provide prescription drugs to seniors. I think it is time we agreed to make that investment for our future.

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DONATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker our Nation's Presidential libraries are a priceless resource for researchers, historians, and the public. They serve as legacies to our Presidents, repositories of history, and a source of tremendous pride for local communities. At the same time, they have become elaborate institutions, housing official papers, museums, classrooms, conference facilities, and even gift shops.

With this expansion, however, come additional costs. As the costs increase, so does the pressure to raise private funds. But under current law, those contributions do not need to be disclosed.

The gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, worked to close this loophole. He has been a leader on this issue, drafting and moving legislation to an overwhelming House vote.

But we should keep politics out of this. The bill before us applies to the current President and future Presidents. I offered an amendment in Committee to make this law effective for the next elected President. I hope we again will resist inserting politics into a bill the House passed by a vote of 392 to 3.

With this legislation we are recognizing the perception of impropriety that contributions to a presidential library can raise. We don't need to re-open old wounds or begin inflicting new ones today. Presidents leave their mark on our rich history, and those giving to presidential libraries should be proud to have their donations publicly disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, our goal should be a unanimous vote on the House floor—anything less is a step back. I know my colleagues will agree: The cost of building presidential libraries: millions. The value of disclosing contributions to those libraries: priceless.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record an article by Michael

D. Roberts published on February 27, 2007 in the *Carib News*, entitled: *The Political Contributions of a Great Son of the Caribbean, Polemics of Garvey's Ideology Garveyism Is Black Action-Oriented and Just as Applicable, Today—An Analysis*. The article reminds us of Marcus Mosiah Garvey's ideals of Black nationalism, the need to relinquish what he referred to as mental slavery and the importance of Black pride.

Marcus Mosiah Garvey was a pioneer and is credited with creating the biggest movement of people of African descent. In the 1920's, he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), an international self-help organization with the goal of working for the general uplift of people of African ancestry. At its zenith, the UNIA had over a million members. This movement is said to have had more participation from people of African descent than the Civil Rights Movement, making it the largest Pan-African movement ever.

For the last several years I have sought to clear the name of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, which was tarnished by an unjust prosecution and conviction by the United States Government. I introduced H. Con. Res. 24, Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted.

Marcus Garvey once exhorted, "Up you mighty race, accomplish what you will." I have always believed that every Black child should know these words, and from whom they came. By passing this legislation we will be giving a gift to all people and acknowledge Garvey's teachings.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the contributions of Marcus Mosiah Garvey and support H. Con. Res. 24.

THE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF A GREAT SON OF THE CARIBBEAN POLEMICS OF GARVEY'S IDEOLOGY GARVEYISM IS "BLACK ACTION-ORIENTED" AND JUST AS APPLICABLE TODAY—AN ANALYSIS

(By Michael D. Roberts)

For Marcus Mosiah Garvey, his ministry was clear—the complete, total and never-ending redemption of the continent of Africa by the people of African ancestry at home and abroad. This was his strategic aim and objective. His "Back to Africa" and "Black is Beautiful" were consciousness building tools that hold relevance today though some scholars will argue that the time for literally "going back to Africa" has long gone.

But there is another school of thought that is relevant today and that is that "Back to Africa" does not simply mean hopping onto a plane and visiting Africa. It means learning about Africa, embracing her culture and identifying with African history. That is something that Blacks in the Diaspora must do if, as the late great reggae superstar Bob Marley says they must, "liberate themselves from mental slavery."

I contend that an ideology is, at its most fundamental stage, simply a collection of ideas. The word ideology was coined by Count Destutt de Tracy in the late 18th century to define a "science of ideas." Thus, an ideology can be thought of as a comprehensive vision; as a way of looking at things in common sense with several philosophical tendencies. Ideologies therefore differ depending on socio-economic and political nuances and class relations in a society and the dominance (or lack of it) by one class over another (dominant ideology).

And while I'm at it let me try and define Garveyism so that this analysis can take on the significance that such an ideology deserves and exposes its essential lessons for 2007 and beyond. To more learned scholars on the subject and definition experts I readily admit my shortcomings but will try within the confines of this definition to set the stage for my discourse on Garveyism.

The ideology of Garveyism is that detachment of Black Nationalism which takes its core values and source from the works, words and actions of The Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL) and their founder Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

The basic tenet of Garveyism is its laser-like focus on the complete, total and never-ending redemption of the continent of Africa by people of African ancestry, at home and abroad. It is rooted in one basic idea: "whatsoever things common to man that man has done, man can do". Therefore, according to Garveyism, Africans in the Diaspora must have an uncompromising and unwavering commitment to the universal improvement of the Black race since its redemption will restore Mother Africa to her former greatness.

But how did this potent mix of Black Nationalism, Pan-Africanism, and African patriotism become so enmeshed in this Black Liberation ideology that today is paid little attention by Black leaders in America and the Caribbean who believe that rabble-rousing and posturing are the tools to advance the Black race? Let us revisit history for these answers.

In 1916 Marcus Mosiah Garvey (1887-1940) brought his budding Black Nationalist organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) to Harlem. He had formed this organization two years before, in 1914, just as the big guns were booming and wholesale slaughter was taking place during the barbarism of the First World War in Europe.

UNIA itself was born out of Garvey's experience with racism, discrimination, and injustice both in his homeland Jamaica, and in other parts of the world where he traveled, and where Blacks were always at the bottom rung of the social, political and economic ladder. But Garveyism, as his philosophy and principles are now known, remains today, in 2007, an ideology largely underutilized and to some extent shunned by those who would lead Blacks to their promised land—wherever that may be. Nonetheless, Garveyism is a most powerful weapon and preaches a Black revolutionary path to achieving Black liberation.

Firstly Garveyism sees the Black problem as having to do with the cultural, economic and psychological degeneration of the Black race by centuries of slavery and racial stereotyping. Garvey himself believed that Blacks lacked knowledge and pride in their African ancestry and therefore were easy prey to the ravages and machinations of white racism.

This philosophy gained immense popularity in the early twenties when Garveyism was the most popular form of Pan-Africanism (a movement of union and recognition of cultural similarity and commonality of interests of all of the countries of Africa and Africans in the Diaspora) among Caribbean-Americans and African-Americans. It was an ideology which would find wide acceptance among Black leaders in Africa waging anti-colonialist struggles for independence and freedom.

But central to the teachings of Garveyism is the issue of race. Marcus Garvey felt that the Black man (and woman) was universally oppressed at the hands of the white power structure and that any program of emanci-

pation would have to be developed around the question of race first. By establishing a clear perspective on the racial question Garveyism outlined a comprehensive program of political, social, and economic action aimed at the total liberation of the Black race.

So that in 1916, the same year that he brought the UNIA to Harlem, Garvey convened the First Black Parliament which had an international flavor. In an historical context the principles outlined by Garvey and which form the basis of Garveyism today set the guidelines for all succeeding Pan-Africanist organizations all over the world and throughout the Black Diaspora.

Garveyism's cultural principles

Garvey used the UNIA newspaper "The Negro World" to combat the negative propaganda of white supremacist groups who held that the Black man was biologically inferior and therefore should be happy to remain enslaved. He waged a constant campaign against all forms of racism from whatever quarter they came—white or Black.

Garvey debunked the commonly held white myth about Black people being visited with a biblical Hamitic curse telling Blacks that their history was one of greatness, achievement and pride. UNIA (motto: "One God! One Aim! One Destiny") and the "Negro World" sponsored Black beauty contests and published photographs of Black women. Garvey called them "Black Queens of Beauty," and numerous cultural programs aimed at uplifting the Black race and developing racial consciousness.

To the critics who assailed Garvey over the fact that he was placing too much emphasis on the issue of Blackness and race, saying that his focus should have been on the broader problem of humanity, Garvey, in his typical blunt fashion, argued that it was not humanity which was being "lynched, burned, Jim Crowed and segregated" but Black people.

So deep was the issue of race to Garvey that he has left us with a major statement on the primacy of race in all things. This is how he put it:

"In a world of wolves one should go armed, and one of the most powerful defensive weapons within the reach of Negroes is the practice of race first in all parts of the world." It is a lesson which modern-day Black leaders would do well to revisit.

Garveyism's economic program

Garveyism places economic emphasis on the development of Black-owned businesses. That is because although Garvey believed that the racial consciousness of Black people was of paramount importance, he also understood that without economic power Blacks would still be the targets of exploitation, oppression and discrimination. Garveyism has left a practical approach to the issue of Black economics which is more than applicable in today's troubled times of economic scarcity and uncertainty.

Marcus Garvey was not just an excellent orator. He was a Pan-Africanist revolutionary who believed in positive action. The Black Star lines (an international commercial and passenger steamship line), the African Commercial league and African Factories Corporation (formed in 1922) were economic organizations developed by Garvey aimed at the economic liberation of the Black race.

And although many reactionary scholars pushing a Eurocentric line have tried to ridicule the idea of the Black Star Line, the powerful example of a great visionary can never be smeared. Garvey understood the importance of international trade and Black self-reliance. It was this self-reliance which led him and his followers to form Black-

owned laundries, Black-owned restaurants, and Black-owned grocery stores. Garvey encouraged Blacks to buy from Black businesses and even went so far as to have Black factories manufacture Black dolls for Black children.

Undoubtedly these principles of Garveyism should be dusted off by the leaders of Black America and the Caribbean today and used as a guide to positive action in these days when the Black Diaspora is coming under attack and the gains of past years are being threatened with erosion.

Garveyism's education program

Garvey stressed the importance of education beginning from the position that white educational values had completely contaminated the Black mind. In this Garvey was right. For one of the first and most lasting forms of slavery, is in fact "mental slavery." Garvey saw that it was fundamentally important to re-educate the Black race using Black history and African heritage as the building blocks. To this end Garvey formed the Liberty University, a vocational training school in Virginia which was modeled after Washington's Tuskegee Institute. This school was part of a wider program of ongoing education which the UNIA launched to combat the years of white conditioning of Black minds.

Marcus Mosiah Garvey was a giant of his time. No Black leader has so completely dominated the Black liberation struggle since his ministry. The sad thing is that the ideology and philosophy which bear his name is not used as a major tool today by present day Black leaders. But history is full of the successes of Garveyism.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) party of South Africa began as a Garveyite organization and many of its guiding principles today have been developed using the tenets of Garveyism. Malcolm X's father was a Garveyite who was killed by the Ku Klux Klan and the famous African and Ghanian anti-colonialist and pro-independence leader Kwame Nkrumah was also a Garveyite. They understood the necessity to "go armed in a world of wolves."

Today, Garvey's contribution to Black history stands out as a monumental work of sacrifice and dedication. It is a pity that as the Black Diaspora suffers at the hands of international reaction in the form of white supremacists here in the United States and neo-Nazi skinheads in Europe, Black leaders are still failing to go armed among the wolves.

For the world of wolves have become much more sophisticated, but the same problems which confronted Garvey more than half a century ago, still plague the Black community and race today.

The wolves have become more sophisticated, more organized, and have traded in their white hoods, masks and sheets for Armani business suits.

#### LIGHT BULB BILL

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to phase out low-efficiency light bulbs—an important step toward making every household, business and public building in America more energy efficient.

Most incandescent light bulbs currently use 12–15 lumens per watt. My legislation would ban the sale of light bulbs using anything less

than 60 lumens per watt, the standards met by today's fluorescents. By 2016, the bill would ban the sale of anything under 90 lumens per watt. And by 2020, the baseline would be set at 120 lumens.

This standard—created in consultation with technical experts in the environmental community, architects, engineers and others—does not discriminate against any bulb type or technological composition. But it does create a bar that makes sense for the market, for the environment, and for America's energy future.

This bill also includes some practical carve-outs for specialized lighting, such as military, medical, and public safety uses and for situations where such lighting is not technologically feasible. But these would be small exceptions, not the rule. A seller of light bulbs would need to specifically seek a waiver and have it approved by a Department of Energy panel to put a non-conforming bulb on the market. These waivers would only be good for 2 years, pushing the market for more innovation.

Madam Speaker, it's clear that we need to change the way we consume and produce energy. This bill will help America one-day transform into a more energy efficient and energy independent Nation.

But today, most of us still use the same glass and filament bulbs that Thomas Edison invented 128 years ago. When it comes to lighting our homes, offices and public places, we still live in a cave.

Only 10 percent of the power used by today's incandescent bulbs is emitted as light. A full 90 percent is released as heat. The typical 60 watt bulb only lasts 750–1,000 hours. Most fluorescent bulbs can last 8 to 10 times longer.

The continued widespread use of incandescent lighting results in low overall efficiency, high energy costs and output, and in the end, tons and tons of harmful carbon emissions. According to the Department of Energy, one energy efficient bulb can prevent the release of over 450 pounds of greenhouse gases.

Because bulbs using 60 or more lumens significantly reduce energy consumption, everyone saves money—and new markets can blossom. Companies across the country, including some in my own district, will benefit by helping develop the technological innovations the legislation calls for.

Though the marketplace of ideas is suddenly crowded with proposals to cut carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency and tackle global climate change, sometimes the most effective, accessible ideas are also the smallest. One small change that everyone can make—one that is being proposed in Australia, in Europe, my home State of California, and now in Congress—is as simple as changing a light bulb.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR GAYLON WATSON

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mayor Gaylon Watson on his 16 years of noble service to the city of Piedmont, MO. As the mayor of Piedmont, Mayor Watson brought passion, hard work

and innovative ideas to his job. Because of Mayor Watson's leadership, Piedmont continues to be a wonderful place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Mayor Watson possesses a deep sense of community and true desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. During his tenure, Mayor Watson brought more investment to the community than any other time in Piedmont's history—investments necessary to create jobs, improve infrastructure and foster the preservation of the area's natural resources. I have worked personally with Mayor Watson, and can attest to the fact that his dedication and steadfast leadership are responsible for making these investments possible.

Rural communities like Piedmont represent the best of our country, and they require constant and aggressive advocacy to keep that way of life alive. Mayor Watson has played a crucial role in advancing community interests while expanding economic opportunity for the Americans fortunate to live in southern Missouri. His successes have been closely observed and duplicated throughout our region, and Mayor Watson is a tremendous role model for those among the younger generation in Piedmont considering a career in public service.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mayor Watson for his many achievements and the enduring impact he has made on his community, State and Nation. I ask that you join me, along with Mayor Watson's family and friends, in wishing him a wonderful and productive retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING KATE FANNING UPON BEING SELECTED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Ms. Kate Fanning, who has been selected as "Woman of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Ms. Fanning resides on North Bromley Avenue in Scranton, PA. She is a daughter of James Fanning and the late Patricia Fanning.

She attended West Scranton High School, where she was a member of the school's marching band. Ms. Fanning graduated from Lackawanna Junior College and later from the University of Scranton where she earned a degree in criminal justice.

Ms. Fanning has been employed as a sergeant by the Lackawanna County Prison for 17 years. She is an active member of St. Patrick's Church in West Scranton, PA, where she has been a life member.

Ms. Fanning has been active in politics for many years, having helped to reinvigorate the Young Democrats of Lackawanna County 14 years ago. She has served as a Democratic committee-woman in West Scranton for many years.

She has also served as treasurer and is a veteran member of the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

In addition to her political volunteerism with the Democratic Party, Ms. Fanning worked tirelessly for the Scranton Tomorrow "Winter in the City" project.

She is also a member of the Society of Irish Women.

Ms. Fanning also enjoys her role as aunt to her three nieces, Jennifer, Erin and Ellen and her nephew, James.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Kate Fanning on the occasion of this special honor. Her commitment to community service, citizenship and volunteerism serves as an inspiration to all and deserves the singular recognition she is receiving from the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF R. BYRON DAVIS

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great public servant to the State of West Virginia. After 45 years of federal service, R. Byron Davis recently retired and while he will surely be missed, he leaves behind a legacy of work that will benefit the State of West Virginia for years to come.

Beginning his career in the 1960s, serving as a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District and later the U.S. EDA, Byron went on to become the Chief of Engineering Service for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Huntington. He has spent the last 20 years as the Economic Development Representative for the State of West Virginia with the EDA.

During that time, Byron has traveled to all 55 counties in the State, meeting with most County Commissions, conducting meetings with city officials, economic development authorities and public service districts. Through his hard work, many new projects have been funded and many long-term jobs have been created.

In my District, Byron was instrumental in providing us the support to establish multi-use industrial buildings and incubators to Marshall University, Beckley, Hinton and Huntington. He was also instrumental in helping with industrial park projects in Wayne, Mercer, Raleigh, Fayette, Logan, Summers, Monroe, Greenbrier and Mingo counties. Most recently, he was instrumental in helping with my establishment of a Mine Safety Technology Consortium in the Third District, and I am grateful for his support of this important project that will be a catalyst in transforming West Virginia coal mining.

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to work with Byron through the years on these and so many other important initiatives. I admire and respect his dedication to our state, his strong work ethic and his unwavering values.

I again commend Byron for great work that he has accomplished. Of course, of all of his accomplishments, Byron would likely say that he is proudest of his strong Christian family, his wife of 47 years, Marion, and his seven grandchildren.

I hope that in his retirement he will get to spend a little more time with "his greatest ac-

complishment" and enjoy the fruits of his labor, for they are many. I wish him the best as he begins the next chapter in what has been and continues to be a life lived well.

Byron, the great State of West Virginia thanks you.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 12, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 198, a resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month. I am an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

Celebrated during the month of February, Black History Month allows all Americans to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans, the famous and the not so famous, who have made strides in all walks of life.

I would like to share with you the words of one of the most noted African Americans in history—civil rights leader, Pan-African sociologist, educator, historian, writer, editor poet, and scholar, W. E. B. DuBois, who said:

"The shadow of a mighty Negro past flits through the tale of Ethiopia the shadowy and of the Egypt the Sphinx. Throughout history, the powers of single blacks flash here and there like falling stars, and die sometimes before the world has rightly gauged their brightness."

This is time to celebrate the trials, tribulations, accomplishments and contributions of African Americans, who have certainly created and attained so much in this nation's young history.

As many of my colleagues know, many of our ancestors were brought here in the grips of iron chains on slave ships. Despite this demoralizing beginning, African Americans created a noble culture that encompasses the American spirit of survival through adversity.

I would like to share a few stories of my past, of why it is so important that we continue to celebrate Black History Month and continue to reflect on our country's struggle with the equality of all people.

More than 60 years ago, my parents, Robert and Ruth Cummings, grew up in rural South Carolina—near a small Clarendon County town called Manning. Some here may recall that Clarendon County would later have the dubious distinction of having its segregated mis-education of Black children successfully overturned in one of the Supreme Court's five Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation cases: Briggs v. Elliot.

I will never forget the painful lesson that my father taught us children about our Grandfather's death in Clarendon County.

When my father was a child in South Carolina, his father was taken back to their home after collapsing in church.

Granddad lay close to death as two white doctors arrived to examine him—an older doctor and his younger assistant.

Later on that moonless night, they emerged from the house onto the front porch.

They did not notice that my father was sitting over in the corner, alone in the dark.

"We should take this man to the hospital in town," the younger doctor pleaded. "It's not worth the effort," the older doctor replied. "He's just a N\*-g-g-r."

My grandfather died on that dark, South Carolina night. As a result, I never had a chance to meet the man whose blood flows through my veins.

I never sat on his knee. He never took me fishing. I never learned about the struggles and joys of this strong and good man.

This, I think, is why I became convinced at an early age that we all must work together to create an America in which no life is considered to be without value.

For Americans of Color, the implications of this personal tragedy are clear.

Unable to depend upon the larger society to value our humanity, African American families have learned that we must create our own doctors and nurses.

We founded first-rate medical schools like those at Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and Morehouse School of Medicine.

We have sent our children to study at world-class nursing schools like the ones in my District at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and Coppin State University.

And, in response, brilliant African American men and women have followed their calling to become our healers.

Some became famous—like Dr. Ben Carson at Johns Hopkins University.

Yet, despite all of these efforts, the American medical establishment has confirmed that "unequal treatment" all too often remains the rule, not the exception, in the medical care that Americans of color receive today.

In fact, African Americans receive inferior medical care—compared to the majority population—even when our incomes and insurance plans are the same. These disparities contribute to our higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

Consider this: The December 2004 issue of the American Journal of Public Health contained important findings by a research team headed by President Clinton's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, and Professor Stephen Woolfe of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Satcher-Woolfe team examined data for the period of the Clinton years that they had gleaned from the National Center for Health Statistics.

During the 1990s, they found that more than 886,000 deaths could have been prevented if African Americans had received the same health care as White Americans.

My friends, when we consider our national health policy, we also are considering our national morality.

We must face the harsh truth: Being Black in America continues to be a medically dangerous condition. And being both Black and poor can be deadly.

But the crisis is spreading. Today more than 46 million Americans of every racial background are uninsured.

And, as a direct result, far too many Americans of every race and creed are dying before their time.

More often than not, health care issues are directly related to the broader challenge of providing access to economic opportunity.

Again, the story of my own parents illustrates this point.

My parents moved to South Baltimore in 1945.

They knew that they had to leave South Carolina if their children were to have a better life.

Life in Baltimore was difficult for my family. During my earliest years in South Baltimore, all that they could afford for themselves and their seven children was a small, rented, three-room house.

Yet, it was there in South Baltimore that my life was changed.

It happened at a neighborhood swimming pool, which at that time was segregated.

We were just children looking for a way to escape the summer heat of South Baltimore's concrete and asphalt streets.

In those days, South Baltimore's white children swam and relaxed in the Olympic-sized Riverside Pool that the City maintained not far from where I lived.

Black children were barred from Riverside by the cruelty of segregation.

We were consigned by the color of our skin to an aging wading pool at Sharp and Hamburg Streets. That wading pool was so small that we had to take turns to be able to sit in the cool water.

Upset about our exclusion from our neighborhood's public pool, we complained.

To their everlasting credit, Captain Jim Smith, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, and the NAACP organized a march.

Other people soon joined in this struggle.

I would like to be able to tell you that the White families at Riverside accepted us graciously. Sadly, that is not what happened.

As we tried to gain entrance to the pool each day for over a week, we were spit upon, threatened and called everything but children of God.

I still carry a scar that I received from a bottle thrown at me during the march. We were afraid. And our parents became concerned for our safety.

Then, when all seemed lost, we saw Juanita Jackson Mitchell marching up the street toward our little group. With her were two reluctant, but grimly determined, policemen. They seemed more afraid of Ms. Mitchell's anger than of the jeering, hostile crowd.

Four decades later, the history books say that the Riverside pool was peaceably integrated. We know the truth.

My friends, the struggle to integrate that public swimming pool at Riverside may not have been a large thing in the eyes of the world.

It was not Little Rock—not Selma, Birmingham nor St. Augustine.

But Riverside has a LARGE meaning for me.

At Riverside, I learned that there are dividing lines in every human lifelines that separate hatred from love.

And I learned that we all will face a time when we must choose on which side of these lines we will take a stand.

That choice is the same no matter who is the victim of prejudice, exclusion and hatred.

We face that same choice today as we open up America to people from every continent, language, religion and race.

And how we handle this choice will determine the future of generations yet unborn.

Black History Month means so much to so many people and I want to thank Congress-

man Al Green for his leadership in introducing H. Res.198 to recognize this fact. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support it.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF FATHER ROBERT AN- THONY MACK

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Father Robert Anthony Mack for his 50 years of service as an ordained priest, and his significant contributions to the western New York community and Catholic Church.

Father Mack will be honored in a special Mass at Saint Louis Parish on Sunday March, 25, and today I honor his accomplishments and devoted service to his parish and community.

A passionate and dedicated man, his contributions to Buffalo include service as chaplain of Nardin Academy, Catholic chaplain of the Buffalo Fire Department, chaplain at Buffalo Memorial Auditorium and War Memorial Stadium, and division chairman of the Public and Service Division of the Erie County United Way.

A native of Riverside, Father Mack's first pastorate began in 1973 at Saint Matthew's Parish in Buffalo where he served until 1978. Father Mack also served as pastor of St. Bridget's in Newfane, NY, as well as at Saint Francis Xavier Parish of Buffalo. During his time at Saint Francis Xavier, Father Mack served as regional coordinator for Region 1 parishes and was a member and secretary of the Black Rock Riverside Clergy Association. In August 1989, Father Mack was honored in front of 25,000 people as Irishman of the Year at a home game of the Buffalo Bisons by the United Irish American Society of Erie County.

Father Mack also served as the pastor of All Saints and served as an administrator of the Rosary Parish in Niagara Falls before being appointed pastor of St. Louis Parish where he retired from in 2002. Father Mack also chaired the Peace and Justice Committee of the Priests' Senate and was appointed to the Arbitration Section of the Diocesan Due Process Committee.

Madam Speaker, Father Mack's experience during his 50 years as an ordained priest is unrivaled in our community. He has been a leader and an inspiration to countless parishioners and to the community at large. Father Mack is one of Buffalo's most prolific men of faith and on this special occasion, I recognize his vast accomplishments and dedication to our community.

#### RECOGNIZING RETIRING SUISUN CITY POLICE CHIEF RON FOR- SYTHE

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Suisun City Police Chief Ron Forsythe, who after nearly 30 years of service to

the community of Suisun City has retired from the Suisun City Police Department.

Chief Ron Forsythe has unselfishly served his community with great dedication and pride, and will leave the department with special recognition and with the highest commendation.

Chief Forsythe began his professional career in 1973, as a student aide in the Daily Republic newsroom, eventually being promoted to reporter and photographer.

His time spent in the newsroom piqued his interest in law enforcement. In 1977, he became a dispatcher and reserve police officer for the Suisun City Police Department. Working his way up the ranks, Chief Forsythe was promoted to chief of police in 1993.

During his career in Suisun City, Chief Forsythe was known for his innovative and forward thinking policies. He took leadership roles in introducing technology, such as automation and car-mounted computers to the department.

Chief Forsythe also instituted the first "citizen police academy" in the county and later introduced the first "teen academy" in the country. Moreover, Chief Forsythe's role in implementing community policing in Suisun City played a key role in turning around a city that was once considered the worst city in the bay area to live in.

Police Chief Ron Forsythe has served the citizens of Suisun City with great distinction, evidenced by policing policies that have served as nationwide models and the numerous State and national awards the department received.

As Chief Ron Forsythe retires from the Suisun City Police Department, I would like to thank him, and his partner, Matthew Forsythe, for his record of service and concern for the protection of life and property in the local community, and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

#### JUDGE ELISEO B. VEGA

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, the nation—and South Texas—lost a valuable patriot today with the passing of longtime Port Isabel municipal judge and community leader Eliseo B. Vega. Known affectionately as "Cheo," Judge Vega died following a lengthy illness.

Judge Vega was an extraordinary caring and hardworking man. He was a familiar face in the Port Isabel area and was a political powerhouse. Despite his several setbacks due to illness, when most would think that he couldn't pull through, the man just kept going and wouldn't miss working. He was a man of great faith and loved life fully. He loved life so much he didn't want a sad funeral, so we will celebrate his life this week.

His life touched so many people. Judge Vega was best known for his role as judge in the municipal court system. His lengthy judicial career, beginning in 1971, spanned generations. He was what you wanted a judge to be: fair and even-handed. He understood people, he understood justice, and he stood at the intersection of both.

Prior to his legal and judicial career, the Judge was a banker and also served in a law



firm. He was the senior vice president of Merchants Marine Bank in Port Isabel for two decades, and as a public relations liaison for Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP Law Office . . . explaining the law long before he took the bench.

Judge Vega was also an educator. The Point Isabel Independent School (PIISD) District Junior High School complex bears his name to honor his role for his 33 years (1969–2001) as a PIISD school board trustee. He was also a trustee for the South Texas Independent School District since Feb. 2005.

He had also been inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame in February 2005 and the Point Isabel Independent School District Hall of Fame in 2002.

As a civic leader, Vega served as an officer or member of many economic, education, and public service organizations including: the Port Isabel/South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce, Port Isabel Urban Development Board, Texas Association of School Boards, National Association of School Boards, Salvation Army Service Unit, Port Isabel Jaycees, Port Isabel Volunteer Fire Department and the Port Isabel/South Padre Island Lions Club. He was also a lifetime member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Judge Vega was married to Olga Medina Vega, who was his boss for 40 years, and the love of his life. The couple had six children and ten grandchildren. The children are: Joe Eliseo, Albert, Nelda, Armando, Olgaïsela, and Arlene.

Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I ask you to join me in expressing our condolences to Judge Vega's family—and the larger South Texas family—who lost a giant of a man in Judge Vega.

#### TRIBUTE TO TRUDY OWENS

#### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, over the 92 years that she lived, my dear friend and legendary political activist Trudy Owens witnessed some of America's most important watershed moments and milestones. She was a political trailblazer, and her accomplishments stand as a reflection of the times in which she lived.

Trudy was born on the eve of woman's suffrage. In the aftermath of World War II, she helped organize the Palos Verdes Democratic Club. In the 1960's, she witnessed the expansion of civil rights and women's liberation while serving as the women's chair of the California Democratic Party. An opponent of the Vietnam War, Trudy worked on the campaigns of my political mentor, former California Senator John Tunney, and on Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign. She was a delegate to the Democratic convention in Chicago that same year.

In 2000, as a testament to her long service in Democratic politics, I chose Trudy as an Electoral College elector for Al Gore. Few people deserved this opportunity more. While the outcome of the election may not have been what she had hoped, Trudy still called this the culmination of her political life. She traveled to Sacramento, cast her vote, and broke her hip.

Trudy passed away last week, but not before the first female Speaker of the House was sworn in. And while she will not be with us during the 2008 Presidential election, she was no doubt thrilled to know that a woman has a genuine chance to become President of the United States.

Trudy's enthusiasm for politics and the Democratic Party was infectious. She was the consummate volunteer. And she naturally balanced her political passions with a gentle graciousness towards everyone around her.

Today, I honor her memory, her dedication, and her long, rich life.

#### CONGRATULATING BRUCE HEIDEN FOR RECEIVING THE 2006 HARRY S. BAKER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR COTTON

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Bruce Heiden for receiving the 2006 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award for Cotton. This award, presented by the National Cotton Council, is given annually to an individual who has provided extraordinary service, leadership, and dedication to the U.S. cotton industry. Mr. Heiden exemplifies all of these qualities.

When talking about agriculture, Mr. Heiden says it's not just an occupation, but a way of life. Born in Buckeye, Arizona, Mr. Heiden grew up watching his father work on his cotton farm. After graduating from high school, he chose to continue his family legacy and began working on the farm full time. After his father's death in the 1970's, he took over the family business—H Four Farms, which produces cotton, wheat, and alfalfa, and the Heiden Land and Cattle Company, a cattle feeding business. Today, he handles the management and operations of the two companies, with his four children.

In addition to growing his successful family business, Mr. Heiden has been a leader in the agriculture industry not only in the Southwest, but in our Nation. As a former National Cotton Council President and Chairman, Mr. Heiden oversaw the successful drafting and passage of the 1990 farm law, helped expand funding for the trade, and directed a significant expansion in program activities and funding for Cotton Council International. For his efforts, Mr. Heiden was named the 1990 Progressive Farmer Magazine "Man of the Year" in Southwest agriculture and was inducted into the National Cotton Hall of Fame in 1996.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bruce Heiden for being a recipient of this award and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to our Nation's agriculture.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the Carib News newspaper the week ending February 27, 2007, titled "Black History Month: The Hand of People From the Caribbean Seen in Every Aspect of Human Development"; as well as an article appearing the same week in the CaribNews paper, entitled, "A Celebration of the Caribbean-American Contribution to Black History: Achievement and Hard-Won Successes Caribbean-Americans Have Added to the Rich Cultural Tapestry of the United States," by Michael D. Roberts. I cannot agree more with the author. Now is the time to reflect on past achievements of immigrants of Caribbean descent and their impact on our country, as well as look to the future with an abundance of hope that their continual contributions to the United States will resonate through eternity.

Since the abolition of slavery in 1834, the Caribbean has provided the primary source of the growth of the Black population in the U.S. Today many Caribbean workers residing in the U.S. are entrepreneurs and small business owners. They can be found working in hospitals, at construction sites and in technology and communication industries. They act as agents of social change in this country by participating in local, State and Federal Government, representing their communities while simultaneously inspiring others abroad to strive for stability and democracy in the homeland. Caribbean-Americans represent a large part of my district and have made a substantial contribution to the fabric of New York City's economy and they contribute to the diversity that characterizes the United States of America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the contributions of the Caribbean-American population in the U.S.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE HAND OF PEOPLE FROM THE CARIBBEAN SEEN IN EVERY ASPECT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

"When the great day of our liberation comes, we will find the West Indian foremost in the ranks of those fighting with his armor on and his sword raised aloft."

Fenton Johnson, an African-American editor, poet and political activist in Chicago was looking back while keeping his eyes on the prize ahead of him in 1919.

"In every industry, in every profession, in every trade, we find this son of the islands holding aloft the banner of Ethiopia," he added.

Although much of what he had in mind: the black political, cultural and economic awakening, has been achieved, a lot remains to be done.

But as we celebrate Black History Month and the achievements of African-Americans, some things are quite clear: African Americans and people from the Caribbean have been consistent allies. Secondly, there is need for even more trust in each other.

Frederick Douglass, the ex-slave and the golden trombone of the 19th century anti-slavery movement and one of the leaders of the abolition crusade recognized the need for this united effort when more than 170 years

ago he said: "Let no American, especially no colored American, withhold a generous recognition of this stupendous achievement."

The great achievement he had in mind as he addressed immigrants from the Caribbean islands in Elmira in New York was the impact of emancipation of slaves in the West Indies in the 1830s.

"Emancipation in the West Indies was the first bright star in the stormy sky," was the way he put it in Elmira, New York in 1880.

It was more than that.

(It was) "The first ray of hope" for African slaves in America, he insisted, was a reason to continue to fight, agitate, revolt and run away from atrocities perpetrated across the land by white slave owners who considered four million people nothing more than "beasts of burden."

But emancipation in the Caribbean, which spawned expressions of joy and happiness, came at a price, thousands of lives lost in the revolts against the brutality of European domination.

As Douglass pointed out, "the emancipation of our brothers in the West Indies came home to us and stirs our hearts and fills our souls with grateful sentiments which link mankind in a common brotherhood."

That's why it is so important to recognize the contributions of people from the Caribbean to the development of human civilization long before and after slavery was abolished.

The contributions were recorded in all areas of human endeavor and they have had an impact on the wide range of emotions—exhilaration after outstanding successes, sadness over the loss of life during the struggle for freedom and hope for what may be ahead. From the fight for freedom from British colonialism in North America and the Caribbean, the growth of agriculture, including the sugar industry, the rule of law, and the struggle for independence and sovereignty to the outstanding educational advancement, literary accomplishments, global recognition as an incubator for sports stars, entertainment, and social and economic development, the Caribbean and its people have made their mark on society.

Dr. Winston James, a history professor at Columbia University in New York, listed some of them in his book, "Holding Aloft the Banner of Ethiopia," which should be read by those searching for factual information about how we got where we are today.

Denmark Vesey, who organized a Black uprising in Charleston in 1832, was from the Virgin Islands. John Russwurm, a Jamaican, was among the first Blacks to graduate from an American college and in the Spring of 1827, a year after he left Bowdoin College in Maine, he joined forces with the Rev. Samuel Cornish and launched the Freedom Journal, the first Black newspaper in the country.

Robert Elliott, one of the most erudite 19th century members of the U.S. House of Representatives and a strong advocate of civil rights in the Reconstruction era was also from Jamaica. Crispus Attucks, the first person to give his life fighting for the independence of the United States, was from Barbados and Prince Hall, also a Barbadian founded the Black Masonic lodge and led the struggle in Massachusetts to educate Blacks in the country. Marcus Garvey, the leader of the greatest Black mass movement of the 20th century, was also from the West Indies. Derek Walcott and Prof. Sir Arthur Lewis, two of the great Nobel Laureates, came from St. Lucia.

Today political, social and business leaders from almost every Caribbean country are carrying on that tradition of accomplishment at home in the Caribbean, in England, continental Europe, Africa, Latin America and other regions of the world.

That rich history of making a difference on the stage of life and of setting examples that the rest of the world can follow is undeniable and underscores the value of Black History Month and the need to examine the role of people from the Caribbean. This is a time to reflect on past achievements and look to the future with an abundance of hope.

A CELEBRATION OF THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO BLACK HISTORY: ACHIEVEMENT AND HARD-WON SUCCESSES CARIBBEAN-AMERICANS HAVE ADDED TO THE RICH CULTURAL TAPESTRY OF THE UNITED STATES  
(By Michael D. Roberts)

Today, nobody can doubt the sterling contribution of Caribbean-Americans to the growth and development of America. And it's been a long history of proven commitment for those who have made this country their adopted homeland.

That our ancestry from Africa labored without reward or recompense in the dark days of slavery underscores the stake that Caribbean-Americans have here in 2007. And for the ignorant and uninformed few who consider Caribbean-Americans outsiders, just sponging off the legacy of American hospitality, I say this—read your history.

But not so long ago, it used to be the politically correct thing to deny one's Caribbean-American roots. Indeed, early Caribbean immigrants only wanted to assimilate into the American mainstream. Don't rock the boat. Hide your Caribbean identity; speak "yankee" in a few days. Never speak in public about the "old country."

But even with this sentiment finding favor among certain sections of the growing Caribbean community, Caribbean nationals, later to be fully assimilated into American life by the honorific name "Caribbean-Americans," formed alliances, and remained at the vanguard of the Black struggle in their adopted homeland.

Today, the term "Caribbean-American" is synonymous with hard work, a growing community of highly literate and skilled people, a landed immigrant community taking hold of and fashioning with a true "Caribbean flavor" all those areas of American infrastructure—from government to religion. And while there is still some way to go before we can truly say that this community has "come of age," that should never diminish the contribution that these immigrants from the Caribbean have made and continue to make on the American scene.

Still, many stories are told even today about the early Caribbean immigrants who waged those initial struggles to be accepted by both Black and white America alike and for economic well-being. For the most part, these early immigrants, many of whom came from the middle and professional classes in their various Caribbean island homelands, were forced to take low-paying, menial jobs on the way up the social and economic ladder. They drove taxis, tended bar, worked in people's kitchens as housemaids, and did two jobs, and sometimes three, to help the family here and "back home."

And in today's climate of xenophobia, and the sustained attack on the immigrant community, Caribbean-Americans living here must be reminded that they are not all "wards of the state," and recipients of the legacy of white folks. Indeed, the Caribbean-American experience and achievement in the United States, and their unequalled penchant for hard work, is chronicled in the pages of Black History. And there can be absolutely no doubt that starting with the American War of Independence, Caribbean-Americans have been involved and at the forefront of every major struggle in the liberation of Black America.

From the War of Independence to the New Deal to the Civil Rights Era, the Caribbean-

American record in their adopted homeland is one of which generations yet unborn can be very proud. Beginning with Crispus Attucks, the Barbadian man who was the first casualty of the War of Independence, to modern day leaders all over the country, Caribbean-Americans have excelled. Hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence at all and every level have marked their sojourn in America. Today this large, dynamic and growing community is recognized as one of the most affluent, educated, and upwardly mobile ones within the wider Black and immigrant communities—and the American society as a whole.

Despite many hardships, Caribbean-Americans have focused on getting ahead. Now the early generation of immigrants is almost retired, own their own homes, and have sent their children to college. They have also educated themselves along the way. This rising middle class has only now begun to flex its political muscle since the economic and social tasks have now been completed. First and second generations of Caribbean-Americans, those born here in America, have helped this community put down its roots, thus becoming an important part of American life. These new torchbearers will build and solidify the foundations started by the tremendous hard work, sacrifices and tenacity that their grandfathers and fathers have built.

On their journey Caribbean-Americans have drawn on the achievements of many who traced their roots to the Caribbean region in the persons of Hulan Jack, legendary trade unionist Raymond Jones, "The Fox of Harlem," and one of the first Caribbean-American members of New York's City Council, the king-maker Fred Samuels.

Upon the shoulders of these pioneering Caribbean-American leaders now stands a modern generation of new leaders in all areas of American life. The entertainment industry is littered with the names and achievements of Caribbean-American actors like Cecily Tyson, whose portrayal of Harriet Tubman, the legendary Black freedom fighter is considered a classic; Harry Belafonte, singer, actor, activist, and ambassador of goodwill; and Sydney Poitier, exquisite actor of film and television. Today's crop of actors who trace their roots to the Caribbean are no less impressive: Sheryl Ralph and Delroy Lindo from Jamaica.

Two Caribbean-Americans, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first elected Black woman to the United States Congress, and Trinidadian Congressman Mervyn Dymally, were indefatigable fighters for the cause of Blacks. Both have made their marks on national and international politics. As did the deceased former Stokely Carmichael, now Kwame Toure, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago, and who excelled during the Civil Rights/Black Power era in the United States. Of course, the work and dedication of the late Cleveland Robinson, a Jamaican who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and who helped him plot the course of the Civil Rights struggle, also stands out, as well as his lifelong commitment to workers' rights in the trade union movement.

Retired General Colin Powell, the youngest Chief of Staff of the United States Armed Forces and former United States Secretary of State, was blessed by having a Jamaican mother and father. Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the powerful and influential Nation of Islam, traces his roots to the tiny Caribbean island of St. Kitts. And the legendary Malcolm X's mother came from the revolutionary island of Grenada, while his father was a Jamaican.

Today, New York is home to a little over two million Caribbean-Americans and while

there is still some way to go, Caribbean-Americans have prospered and excelled. Indeed the impressive list of achievements reflects strong and bold strides in every area in the fight for social and economic justice. Caribbean-Americans have partnered with African-Americans in forging a common understanding and a need to work in each other's interests. Not only that, Caribbean-Americans have reached out to other immigrant communities to broaden the base of the socio-economic and political struggle.

This natural dynamic has spawned the likes of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Assemblyman Nick Perry, Former City Councilwoman Una Clarke, Councilman Dr. Kendall B. Stewart, deceased Assemblywoman Pauline Rhodd Cummings, former City Councilman Rev. Lloyd Henry and State Senator John Sampson, in the present political arena. Social and educational interaction has produced Nobel Prize winner, the St. Lucian playwright Derek Walcott, the novelist Paulie Marshall, the basketball stars, Patrick Ewing and Tim Duncan and many, many others.

So this record of not remaining aloof from the fracas that is American life and politics is clearly outlined in Black historical records. Caribbean-Americans have also had to contend with similar problems faced by African-Americans, and then some more. They have had to deal with the problems of racism and discrimination. They have been used as handy scapegoats when opportunistic politicians needed a vulnerable group of people to beat up on. And they have been used as an unwitting tool against each other in the devious tactic of divide, rule and conquer.

Recent problems of having to come to grips with a horrendous xenophobic climate and some very draconian immigration laws which all but say to immigrants, "You are not welcomed here," has literally placed this community under siege. And compounding these problems is the pervasive nature of neo-racism which hits all Blacks—not only Caribbean-Americans. For many Caribbean-Americans, like their African-American brothers and sisters, education is the key to liberation and thousands have taken advantage of these opportunities in the United States.

They have succeeded despite the constant changing of the rules and the shifting of the bar to perpetuate a program of exclusion.

The Caribbean-American contribution to Black and American history is a saga of struggle, dedication and commitment to success. Caribbean-Americans have defied all odds and surmounted every obstacle along the way.

They have formed alliances and forged new partnerships to defend and protect common interests.

They have brought their political savviness to the Black liberation struggle. And they have made America richer for the experience.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 720, WATER QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 9, 2007*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. I am pleased to support this important and needed reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Economic growth can only occur if the infrastructure, the roads, the power grids, and the water/wastewater systems can accommodate this growth. A community cannot prosper without suitable infrastructure.

Too often, this vital infrastructure is not keeping up with the existing needs or future development. A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, found that, "without continued improvements in wastewater treatment infrastructure, future population growth will erode away many of the Clean Water Act achievements." Further EPA studies have found there to be a gap of \$181 billion between the revenue that is available and the wastewater infrastructure that is needed. It is expected that this gap will widen to more than \$500 billion by 2019.

These shortfalls unfortunately hit small communities the hardest. Water systems that serve these communities face a continued battle to keep their infrastructure in working order, all the while construction and maintenance costs continue to rise. Moreover, small systems simply do not have the ability to pass these costs on to their consumers.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund has helped address this need. This program allows communities to seek Federal and State dollars from the fund. From FY 2002 through FY 2006 the Missouri SRF provided \$745,776,200 in loans to water systems. These dollars went to create new collection sewers, replace existing or outdated sewers, and build treatment and secondary treatment plants. Without these updates, the environment around Missouri communities would have suffered. So for these reasons I rise in support of this legislation.

But I have concerns about extending Davis-Bacon Act requirements to all dollars within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. While it is true the prevailing wage requirements of Davis-Bacon were attached to Federal dollars in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program from 1972 through 1995, these requirements have never been attached to the State dollars in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The unprecedented move of placing prevailing wage requirements on all State Revolv-

ing Fund dollars is bad national policy. Placing Davis-Bacon on all dollars within the State Revolving Fund is a gross overreach of Congressional power. Though Missouri does apply prevailing wage requirements, 18 States have said through referendum or resolution that they don't want to have a prevailing wage law. This is a decision that should remain at the State level, not be subverted by the Federal government. Unfortunately, H.R. 720 says to the residents and lawmakers of these States, "you were wrong and we're not going to listen to you." This is wrong. Congress should not be in the business of preempting State law in this area. For this reason, I voted for the Baker Amendment which sought to remove the Davis-Bacon provision from the bill. I was disappointed that this amendment was not adopted.

Because of the pressing need to improve our Nation's wastewater infrastructure, I will support this legislation but I do so with serious reservations about the Davis-Bacon requirements in the underlying bill. I am voting to move this important bill on to the Senate, but it is imperative that this unjustified and inappropriate provision be removed as this measure moves through the legislative process.

## RECOGNIZING THE "STARS" OF THE 2007 LITTLE SMILES STAR BALL

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 15, 2007*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the 2007 "Stars" of the Little Smiles Star Ball for their bravery and spirit. I am honored to be able to celebrate each of these exceptional children and the achievements they have made over the past year.

I would like to recognize Joey Botto, Nicole Cadavid, Steven Castro, Aleesha Choksi, Thannade "Eddie" Duclot, Ainsley Erb, James Franklin, Dominick Fuller, Gabriella Gonzalez, Sharnay Hightower, Tanner Hrobak, Cassandra McClanahan, Sean McKelvey, Chelsey Smith, Cesar Valasquez, and Syppress Wilson.

Each of these incredible children is being recognized for the courage they have shown and the big smiles they bring to their families and to the doctors, nurses and staff at the south Florida hospitals and hospices where they currently receive treatment. Each of them has a shining spirit and truly deserves "star" treatment.

Please join me in celebrating the "Stars" of the Little Smiles Star Ball and their outstanding achievements.